



**Council for Lifelong Learning**  
**Excellent Teaching Program**

**Fact Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What is the Excellent Teaching Program?</p>	<p>In 1998, the Legislature created the Excellent Teaching Program as a supplement to state certification. The program provides incentives for classroom teachers to seek national certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The Excellent Teaching Program provides a fee subsidy of 90 percent of the NBPTS fee, \$2,300 as of June 2001, for Florida teachers who seek NBPTS certification. Additionally, a one-time portfolio preparation fee of \$150 is also paid. Florida teachers who receive NBPTS certification are eligible to receive an annual bonus of 10 percent of the prior fiscal year's statewide average salary for classroom teachers, approximately \$3,800 for every year of the life of the certification (10 years). An additional 10 percent bonus can be earned for NBPTS certified teachers who mentor and provide other services to non-NBPTS teachers.</p> <p>The total appropriation for this program has increased each year since the 1998-1999 school year. The Legislature appropriated \$12 million for the 1998-1999 school year, \$14 million for the 1999-2000 school year, \$19 million for the 2000-2001 school year, and \$31.4 million for the 2001-2002 school year.</p>
<p>2. What is the teacher's responsibility in the program?</p>	<p>A teacher for whom the state pays the certification fee and who does not complete the program or does not teach in a public school in Florida for at least one year after completing the certification must repay the fee to the state. A teacher who completes the program but fails to be awarded NBPTS certification does not have to repay the state.</p>
<p>3. What is the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)?</p>	<p>The NBPTS was established in 1987 as a nonpartisan, independent not-for-profit organization with the goals of setting high, rigorous, and detailed standards of what accomplished teachers should know. These standards represent 24 certification fields. Candidates must possess a baccalaureate degree, hold a valid state teaching license, and have accomplished three years of successful teaching.</p> <p>National Board certification is a declaration that a classroom teacher has met the high and rigorous professional standards set by the NBPTS as measured by a peer group of classroom teachers.</p>

## Excellent Teaching Program

	<p>Candidates for National Board certification are subject to a portfolio review and a two-part assessment based on standards and teaching. NBPTS estimates that certification takes approximately one year to complete. The portfolio review includes students' work and videotapes of the classroom teacher providing classroom instruction.</p>																				
<p>4. How much interest have teachers shown in the Excellent Teaching Program?</p>	<p>Since the program's inception the figures are as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">1998-1999</th> <th style="text-align: center;">1999-2000</th> <th style="text-align: center;">2000-2001</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># Applicants</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1749</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1455</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2421</td> </tr> <tr> <td># Withdrawals</td> <td style="text-align: center;">378</td> <td style="text-align: center;">354</td> <td style="text-align: center;">486</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Participants</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1371</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1101</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1935</td> </tr> <tr> <td># Earning NBPTS certification</td> <td style="text-align: center;">546</td> <td style="text-align: center;">700</td> <td>The number certified will be available in November 2001.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>According to the NBPTS, the national certification process has an average pass rate of 50 percent. However, since that percentage was calculated, the NBPTS has allowed teachers who do not pass a portion of the exam to retake just that portion. In the past, teachers were required to re-enroll in the entire program if they did not pass even one portion of the exam. It is hypothesized that this policy change will increase the number of teachers who pass the exam.</p>		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	# Applicants	1749	1455	2421	# Withdrawals	378	354	486	Total Participants	1371	1101	1935	# Earning NBPTS certification	546	700	The number certified will be available in November 2001.
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<p>5. How does NBPTS certification affect Florida's state certification process?</p>	<p>The 1998 Legislature also implemented changes to Florida's certification process. Teachers from out-of-state who are NBPTS-certified, and hold a valid certification in another state and pass Florida's background and fingerprint check requirement, qualify for a professional certificate in Florida. A certified NBPTS teacher is deemed to meet state renewal requirements for the life of the teacher's NBPTS certificate.</p>																				
<p>6. What teachers are eligible?</p>	<p>All classroom teachers in Florida school districts are eligible. The 1999-2000 Legislature amended the statute to include the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind as a school district for purposes of this program.</p>																				
<p>7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 236.08106, F.S. -- Excellent Teaching Program            Section 236.08107, F.S. -- Excellent Teaching Program Trust Fund            Section 231.173, F.S. -- Out-of-state teachers            Section 231.24(2), F.S. -- Process for renewal of professional</p>																				

Excellent Teaching Program

	<p>certificate</p> <p>2001-2002 GAA, S.A. 127 2000-2001 GAA, S.A. 90 1999-2000 GAA, S.A. 114 1998 -1999 GAA, S.A. 119B</p>
<p>8. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Division of Human Resource Development 325 West Gaines Street Suite 203, Turlington Building Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 (850) 413-6073 <a href="http://www.firn.edu/doe/etp/">www.firn.edu/doe/etp/</a></p> <p>Florida Department of Education "Florida Excellent Teaching Program Technical Assistance" Document #1, July 31, 1998 Document #2, September 21, 1998</p> <p>The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 26555 Evergreen Rd., Suite 400 Southfield, MI 48076 1-800-532-1813 <a href="http://www.nbpts.org">www.nbpts.org</a></p> <p>NBPTS Certification Policy &amp; Procedure Questions: The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 6818 South Zarzamora Street San Antonio, Texas 78224</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Innovation (850) 488-7451</p>